

**TOP SECRET**

Approved For Release 2000/08/26 : CIA-RDP61S00750A000600140009-0

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

SEP 30 1960

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

SUBJECT: USAF Requirement for T/KH Clearances

1. Mr. Garlock has informed me of your concern expressed at the Armed Forces Policy Council meeting on 27 September relative to the contemplated numbers of personnel to be cleared for TALENT/KEYHOLE, and of my personal responsibility relative to these special clearances. I have also reviewed the memo sent to you on 23 September on this subject.

2. I have conducted a detailed review of this entire subject with those of primary concern in the Air Force. Based on this review, I would like to re-emphasize the following points:

a. I understand that the subject of paramount concern was the numbers of personnel cleared for "all details" (i. e. complete information on both operational and intelligence aspects). On this subject, I would like to stress that there are two separate clearances involved. First, the operational clearance called "CORONA", and secondly, the product clearance called "KEYHOLE". For your information, in the Air Force there are less than 50 personnel who have complete access to both of these programs.

b. All individuals considered for clearance in the TALENT/KEYHOLE program are already cleared for TALENT and all of the cleared exploiters and analysts work in our specially controlled TALENT facilities.

3. In light of your expressed concern over the total numbers of personnel involved in this sensitive security program, I have reduced the total number of additional clearances required from 1200 to 890, a reduction of more than 25%.

\*USAF Declass/Release Instructions On File\*

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KEYHOLE CHANNELS

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4. In effecting this reduction, I have approved the maintenance of the bulk of the exploitation capability in the Strategic Air Command and the Aeronautical Chart and Information Center as priority one areas vital to the effective employment of our primary Strike Forces. Considerable reductions have been made in AFIC, ATIC and the overseas commands. These reductions will cause a proportionate decrease in the rate of production of air intelligence from this photography and will deny full application of derived intelligence to the War Plans of the overseas commands.

5. The magnitude and scope of this special satellite reconnaissance program and the vast quantities of photography to be obtained from planned missions will soon saturate our existing T/KH intelligence exploitation capability. In view of the impact of this new source of intelligence on all aspects of the Defense Establishment, it is recommended that as additional coverage is received, this subject be reviewed to insure timely exploitation and the application of the derived intelligence to the national defense effort.

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